

that our seniors are protected during this change and that no one who depends on this home health care service is left out in the cold.

RONALD REAGAN'S LEGACY

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, there are those who still turn a blind eye to the legacy of President Ronald Reagan. Although he left office in 1989 as one of the most beloved presidents of this century, there are some academicians and members of the political left who still want to denigrate his place in history.

When we look at the opening of the Soviet archives over the last few years, and the testimony of former Soviet leaders themselves, we see that President Reagan's strong foreign policy and defense buildup were responsible for the fall of the communist empire.

The transformation of the American economy under his stewardship into a low-tax, deregulated economy has now made our country the envy of the world.

Mr. Speaker, there is no better way to honor his achievement than to rename Washington National Airport after President Ronald Reagan, one of the truly great presidents in American history.

ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Speaker GINGRICH, I will be introducing a concurrent resolution remembering the life of George Washington and his significant contributions to our Nation.

As my colleagues will recall, December 14, 1999, will be the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, the founder of our Nation and protector of our liberties. Throughout his life, George Washington projected selfless bravery and astute decision-making, all of which helped to formulate our great Nation into what it is today.

Today, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union, which maintains the Mount Vernon estate and directs research education programs relating to George Washington, will be on Capitol Hill to demonstrate their support for this resolution.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to join me and the Speaker and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association in supporting this concurrent resolution in observation of the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, commemorating this notable public servant, an outstanding president, and a courageous general and a splendid human being.

LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD RELEASE PRISONERS

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, Jerry Canfield, long-time city attorney in Ft. Smith, and his wife Meg have been held in custody by the Laotian government since last Friday. They were arrested along with one other American and 40 Laotians.

What was their crime? They were helping Laotians build water systems. But could it also be that they were peacefully assembling to exercise freedom of religion, freedoms that we in a democratic Nation exercise routinely?

The Americans have been released, but what about the 40 Laotians who are still in custody? It is my hope and prayer that these Laotians will be released as well and that the Laotian government recognize that freedom works, not just in America but throughout the world.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET NOT ALL THAT IS PROMISED

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President sent to Congress his budget. He claims that this is the first balanced budget in 30 years. Is that true? Only in Washington could this be called a balanced budget.

The President proposes to borrow an additional \$185 billion this year in this budget. That is right. The national debt this year would go up another \$185 billion. As a matter of fact, the President's plan over the next 6 years would increase the national debt by \$1 trillion. And they say that is balanced.

The President claims that the surpluses in this budget would go to make Social Security solvent. That is not quite accurate either, Mr. Speaker. The President's budget continues, repeat continues, the practice of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund.

To top it all off, the President is proposing to increase taxes. As a matter of fact, under this plan, the President's plan, taxes would be at the third highest level than they have ever been in the history of the United States.

So this budget increases taxes, it adds more debts, and it raids the Social Security Trust Fund. This is business as usual, Mr. Speaker. Shame on the President. And if Congress adopts this budget, shame on Congress.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS BUSINESS AS USUAL

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, a year ago the President proclaimed the era of

big government is over. And then recently he said, it is now the end of an era, meaning we have a surplus and we had a lot of ways to spend it. So I guess the era that big government was over was only about an 11-month period of history in the United States. Now we are back to the government spending as usual.

The President came on like gangbusters, Santa Claus on Christmas morning, with all kinds of high taxes, new spending programs, old Democrat stuff, tried and true methods of buying blocs of voters one at a time.

One thing the President forgot in his speech, he said the deficit had 11 zeros. Actually, the debt has more zeros than the deficit. I believe the President confused the debt with the deficit, and he thinks we have paid off the debt.

Mr. Speaker, the children of the United States of America, and all others, are faced with over a \$5 trillion debt. We have got to pay down the debt. That should be the highest priority with the surplus.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE) laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, February 2, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1105, attached is the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 1999.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, FISCAL YEAR 1999—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-177)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

The 1999 Budget, which I am submitting to you with this message, is a balanced Federal budget, marking the first such budget in 30 years and bringing an era of exploding deficits to an end.

By reaching balance, my budget represents a remarkable turnaround in our fiscal policy over the last five years. It brings to an end three decades of fiscal chaos, a period in which Americans had lost confidence in their Government and the ability of their leaders to do the people's business.

This budget is not just balanced, it is balanced the right way. It not only ends the deficit, it reflects the values